

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MARSEI 00395 151058Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /064 W

----- 120088

R 141330Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1250

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMCONSUL NICE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MARSEILLE 395

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:PINT FR AG

SUBJECT: DEFFERRE SPONSORS "REMEMBRANCE" VISIT TO ALGERIA FOR
MARSEILLE'S "PIEDS NOIRS"

1. IN LINE WITH HIS POLITICAL CAMPAIGN FOR 1977 MUNICIPAL
ELECTIONS SOCIALIST DEPUTY/MAYOR GASTON DEFFERRE HAS JUST
ANNOUNCED SPECIAL VISIT TO ALGIERS AND ORAN FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS
PREVIOUSLY REPATRIATED FROM ALGERIA. THE VOYAGE, SCHEDULED
FOR OCTOBER 31 TO NOVEMBER 2 WILL BE PARTIALLY SUPPORTED BY
CITY GOVERNMENT WITH FREE PASSAGE OFFERED PARTICIPANTS OVER 65
YEARS OF AGE. THOSE WITH LIMITED INCOMES WILL BE ALLOWED
FIFTY TO SEVENTY FIVE PERCENT REDUCTIONS IN COST OF AIR PASSAGE.
MUNICIPALITY IS ALSO OFFERING TO PURCHASE ONE HUNDRED FRANC
STAMPS REQUIRED FOR PASSPORTS.

2. DEFFERRE LAID GROUNDWORK FOR PROJECT DURING HIS LAST VISIT
TO ALGIERS WITH ASSISTANCE FROM FRENCH EMBASSY, CIVIC
SUTHORITIES IN ALGIERS AND ORAN AND ALGERIAN CONGEN MARSEILLE.
HIS OFFICE ESTIMATES PARTICIPATION AT APPROX 800 PERSONS.

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COMMENT: IN PULLING LATEST RABBIT OUT OF CAMPAIGN HAT DEFFERRE

IS MAKING DIRECT (AND PROBABLY EFFECTIVE) BID FOR MARSEILLE'S
"PIED NOIR" VOTE. ANNOUNCEMENT HAS ALSO ALLOWED HIM TO REVIEW
HIS PAST ACTION IN FAVOR OF FORMER ALGERIAN RESIDENTS INCLUDING
HEALTH ASSISTANCE, EDUCATION BENEFITS AND HOUSING UPON THEIR
ARRIVAL MARSEILLE, INTRODUCTION OF AN INDEMNIZATION BILL TO
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN 1972 AND ERECTION OF SEASIDE MONUMENT TO
REPATRIATED. NOW, IN PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY FOR "PIEDS NOIRS" TO "VISIT
THE GRAVES OF THEIR PARENTS" DEFFERRE NEATLY PRE-EMPTED
CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION'S CLAIM TO BE SOLE SUPPORTERS OF
"PIEDS NOIRS" IN MARSEILLE. CONSERVATIVE DAILY "LE MERIDIONAL", HERE
TOFORE CONSIDERED CHAMPION OF "PIED NOIR" CAUSE, HAS TREATED DEFFERRE
'S ANNOUNCEMENT WITH TOTAL SILENCE.
SIMPSON

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